

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 7, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Speaker Pelosi,

As we look ahead to a “lame duck” session of Congress this year, we write to ask that as you craft the legislative agenda you not include controversial cap-and-trade legislation, or similar legislation, that would burden American consumers with a National Energy Tax. News reports suggesting the possibility of a lame duck consideration of such controversial and far-reaching legislation is highly troubling. We ask that you commit to Members of Congress and to the American public that this approach will not be pursued.

Both the House and Senate have acted on cap-and-trade bills. As you are aware, the House of Representatives narrowly passed H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 in May of 2009 by a razor-thin margin of 219-212. Comparable legislation in the Senate, S.1733, Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act, was reported out of the Committee on Environment and Public Works on February 2, 2010. Similar bills and discussion drafts have also made news headlines. There has been more than significant time to consider these proposals under regular procedures. While the future of these proposals is uncertain, and it is expected that the House and Senate would need to reconcile differences among these or other energy proposals, such deliberations must be conducted in a transparent, orderly process and with the highest regard to the views of our constituents as expressed in our elections.

The timing of enacting cap-and-trade legislation in the foreseeable future is also ill advised in light of our ongoing economic problems. As unemployment persists at around 10 percent, it makes little sense to artificially increase utility and energy prices and force greater economic hardship directly on American families. Furthermore, the increase in energy costs will be distributed across numerous other sectors of the economy, which will kill jobs, stifle our economic growth, and hamper international competitiveness. A weaker economy in turn compounds our public debt crisis, which has surpassed an epic \$13 trillion.

To be sure, the legislative process is cumbersome, but it is designed to safeguard the liberty of the people whom we represent and to whom we are accountable. With the exception of a national emergency, to wait until a lame duck session to pass substantive legislation that will affect the life of every American does great damage to the integrity of our constitutional republic.

Sincerely,

Doug Laube	Joe Barton
Frank Rosten	Shirley M. Mays
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John Flinn	Cynthia D. Lummis
Bob Sten	Joe Albert
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Theresa Mackay

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Phil King

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Handel Pope

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~~Paul King~~

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Mike King

Bob Brady

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Bon Paul

Bill Posey

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Pat Lucas

Dan Burton

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Hon. Robert Latta (OH-05)  
Hon. Pete Olson (TX-22)  
Hon. John Shadegg (AZ-03)  
Hon. Parker Griffith (AL-05)  
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